

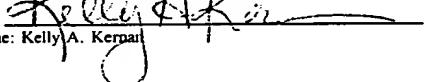
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) Group Art Unit: 2712
)
 HISATO SHIMA ET AL.) Examiner: NOT ASSIGNED
)
 Application No. 09/518,403)
)
 Filed: March 3, 2000)
)
 For: **DIGITAL RECORDING**)
 APPARATUS AND COPYRIGHT)
 PROTECTION METHOD)
 THEREOF)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on June 20, 2000.

LIMBACH & LIMBACH I.L.P. Date: June 20, 2000

By: 
Name: Kelly A. Kerman

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information [attached hereto and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified)] of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

This Information Disclosure Statement:

- (a) accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.
37 CFR § 1.97(a).
- (b) is filed within three months after the filing date of the application or within three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491.

- (c) [x] as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (d) [] is filed after the first office action and more than three months after the application's filing date or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either the fee (\$240) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) or a certification as specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below.
- (e) [] is filed after the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurred first, and the Issue Fee has not been paid, and is accompanied by the fee (\$130) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(i)(1) and a certification as specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below. This document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.

[If either of boxes (d) or (e) are checked above, the following "certification" under 37 CFR § 1.97(e) may need to be completed.] The undersigned certifies that:

- (f) [] Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- (g) [] No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

A list of the patent(s) or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith:

- (h) [x] each (i) [] none (j) [] only those listed below:

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO-1449 (Modified) is:

- (k) not given
- (l) given for each listed item
- (m) given for only non-English language listed item(s)
[Required]
- (n) is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references [copy attached].

The Examiner is reminded that a "concise explanation of the relevance" of the submitted items "may be nothing more than identification of the particular figure or paragraph of the patent or publication which has some relation to the claimed invention," MPEP § 609.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.98 and MPEP § 609 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

PATENT

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- [x] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 12-1420 for any fees required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. **A duplicate copy of this Notice is enclosed for this purpose.** In particular, in the event that an Office Action has crossed in the mail with this Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the above-named deposit account for any fees required pursuant to CFR §§ 1.17(p) or 1.17(i)(1).

Respectfully submitted,
LIMBACH & LIMBACH L.L.P.

Dated: June 20, 2000 By: Charles P. Sammut
Charles P. Sammut
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Our File: SONY-C7751 (S97P751US01)

FORM PTO-1449 (Modified) (Rev. 7-80)		U.S Dept. of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty Docket No. SONY-C7751 (S97P751US01)	Appn. No. 09/518,403		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant(s) HISATO SHIMA ET AL.			
				Filing Date March 3, 2000	Group 2712		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*Examiner Initials		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
	AA	5,973,748	10/26/99	HORIGUCHI ET AL.	348	554	11/13/97
	AB	5,987,126	11/16/99	OKUYAMA ET AL.	380	5	03/13/98
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*Examiner Initials		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation YES NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS							
Examiner				Date Considered			
<small>* Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>							